

1345.4 - SA Stats, May 2008

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 27/05/2008

Summary

Contents



In This Issue

(27/05/2008) | This issue of SA Stats focuses on literacy of South Australians in 2006.



Demography

Includes: **Estimated Resident Population**

(27/03/2008) | The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,588,481 at 30 September 2007, an increase of 15,989 persons (1.0%) since 30 September 2006.



State Accounts

Includes: **State Final Demand, Household Final Consumption Expenditure**

(27/03/2008) | South Australia's December 2007 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$17,530m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$266,734m.



Consumption

Includes: **Retail Turnover, New Motor Vehicle Sales**

(27/03/2008) | The January 2008 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,411.1m, while the estimate for Australia was \$20,183.2m.



Investment

Includes: **Private New Capital Expenditure, Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Expenditure**

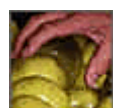
(27/03/2008) | Between the September 2007 and the December 2007 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure decreased by 2.5% to \$1,178m.



Construction

Includes: **Building Approvals**

(27/03/2008) | In January 2008, the total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia (in trend terms) was 1,073. Nationally, the total number of dwelling units approved (in trend terms) was 13,463.



Prices

Includes: **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

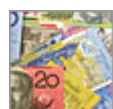
(27/03/2008) | The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 2.7% in the 12 months to December 2007, compared with a 3.0% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities.



Labour Force

Includes: **Job Vacancies, Employed persons, Unemployment**

(27/03/2008) | In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies decreased to about 9,400 in November 2007 from 10,000 in August 2007. The November 2007 vacancies were the same as in November 2006.



Incomes

Includes: **Average Weekly Earnings**

(27/03/2008) | The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 5.2% to \$1,046.10 in the 12 months to November 2007.



International Merchandise Trade

Includes: **Exports and Imports**

(27/03/2008) | The value of Australian merchandise exports for January 2008 was \$13,185m, which was 4.4% greater than that for January 2007. The value of Australian merchandise imports for January 2008 was \$16,937m, a 16.5% increase from January 2007.



Housing Finance

Includes: **Housing Finance Commitments**

(27/03/2008) | The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia in January 2008 was \$1,072m, an increase of 15.9% from January 2007.



Water

Includes: **Winter Rainfall, Adelaide's Reservoir levels**

(27/03/2008) | The Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Climate Summary for South Australia for summer 2008 reported that the season's rainfall was generally below average apart from the west of the state where it was slightly above average.

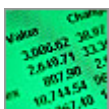


Tourist Accommodation

Includes: **Tourist Accommodation**

(27/03/2008) | Room occupancy rates for hotels, motels and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms for the September 2007 quarter were 65.5% for South Australia in trend terms.

In this issue



IN THIS ISSUE

This month's article focuses on Literacy of South Australians in 2006. Literacy data can assist with identification of 'at risk' groups, evaluation of current literacy programs, and provide information for the planning of future literacy policies and teaching strategies. The article 'Literacy of South Australians' provides an overview of the literacy levels of South Australians in 2006 using data from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS) (cat. no. 4228.0). This survey collected information on the knowledge and skills of Australians across four literacy domains: prose literacy; document literacy; numeracy; and problem solving. The main findings include:

- South Australians have similar literacy levels to all Australians;
- only 30% of South Australians were assessed as having adequate problem solving skills;
- the proportion of employed persons with adequate document literacy skills (64%) was double that of those not employed (32%); and
- literacy levels increase as the level of educational attainment increases.

Other Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications referenced in the feature article.

If you have any comments about this product please contact James Inglis on ph: (08) 8237 7405 or alternatively e-mail <sa.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Articles

Literacy of South Australians

This article provides an overview of the literacy levels of South Australians in 2006 using

data from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS). This survey collected information on the knowledge and skills of Australians across four literacy domains: prose literacy; document literacy; numeracy; and problem solving.

Demography



DEMOGRAPHY

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

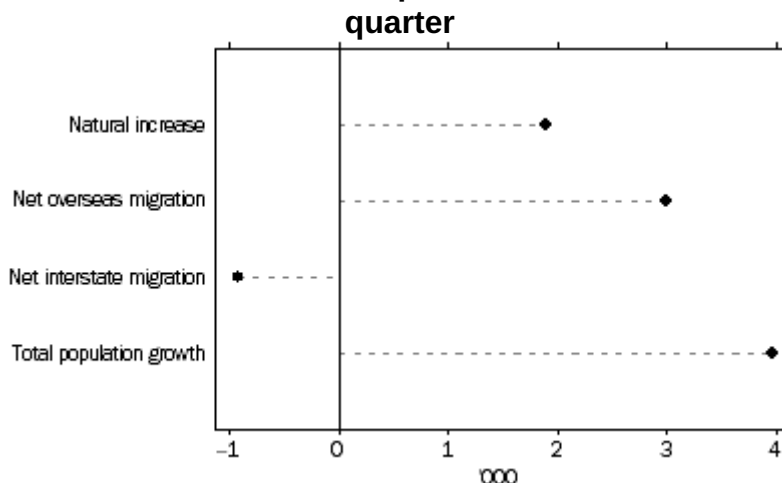
The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,588,481 at 30 September 2007, an increase of 15,989 persons (1.0%) since 30 September 2006.

All states and territories recorded population growth over the 12 months ended 30 September 2007. Western Australia recorded the largest growth rate (2.4%) and Tasmania recorded the lowest growth rate (0.8%).

For the 12 months ending 30 September 2007, South Australia recorded a natural increase (i.e. the net of births and deaths) of 7,120 persons. Net overseas migration provided a gain of 12,803 persons in the same period while net interstate migration realised a loss of 3,934 persons.

Nationally, the preliminary ERP was 21,097,148 at 30 September 2007, an increase of 318,490 persons (1.5%) since 30 September 2006. For the year ended 30 September 2007, Australia recorded a natural increase in population of 139,388 persons; net overseas migration resulted in a gain of 179,102 people.

QUARTERLY POPULATION CHANGE, Components, South Australia - September 2007



Source: [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0)

State accounts



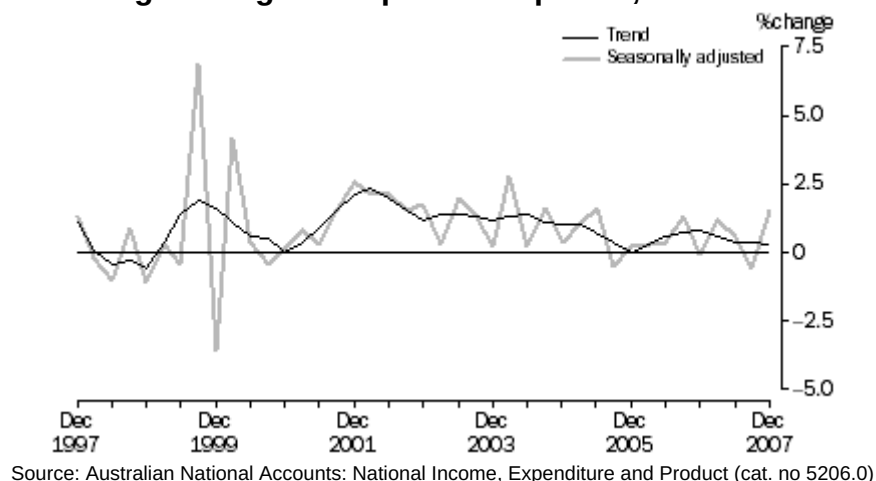
STATE ACCOUNTS

South Australia's December 2007 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$17,530m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$266,734m.

The 0.3% increase in South Australia's State Final Demand from the previous quarter was less than the increase observed in the national Domestic Final Demand (1.1%). Of the other states and territories the strongest growth for the quarter was reported in Tasmania (up 1.6%), followed by Victoria (up 1.4%).

In the December 2007 quarter South Australia's State Final Demand comprised 6.6% of Australian Domestic Final Demand, compared to 7.2% for the December 1997 quarter. The proportional contribution to the Australian Domestic Final Demand of New South Wales and Tasmania also decreased over this time period while that of the other states and territories (Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory) increased. The most notable decrease occurred in New South Wales, with a fall from a 34.1% share to 31.1%. Queensland increased its share of Australian Domestic Final Demand from 17.5% to 20.1%.

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter, South Australia



HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (HFCE)

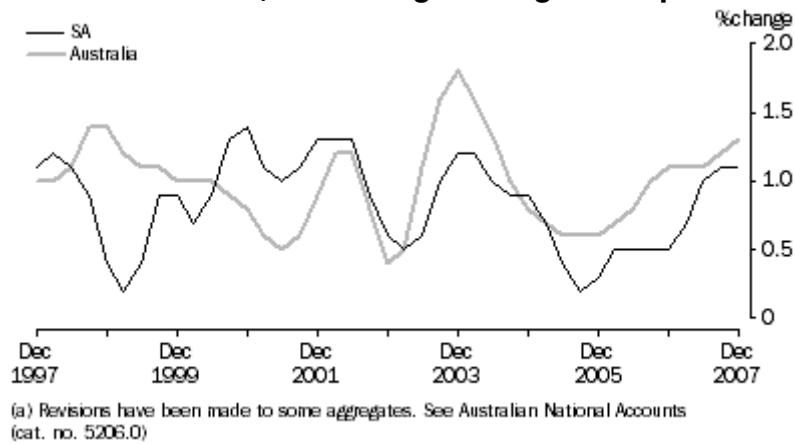
In chain volume (trend) terms, South Australia's December 2007 quarter HFCE was \$10,421m (7.1% of the national total of \$147,791m). This was a 1.1% increase from the September 2007 quarter for South Australia. For Australia, the increase was 1.3%.

The largest increases in expenditure in South Australia for the December 2007 quarter were for Recreation and culture (up 2.5% from the September 2007 quarter), followed by Transport services (up 1.7%). For Australia, the largest increase was for Transport services (up 2.6% from the September 2007 quarter) followed by Recreation and culture (up 2.1%). No expenditure components showed a decrease in the December 2007 quarter.

Comparing the December 2007 quarter and the December 2006 quarter, HFCE increased by 4.0% for South Australia and 4.7% for Australia. The expenditure components which showed the largest increases for South Australia during this period were Purchase of vehicles (up 10.3%) and Furnishings and household equipment (up 9.4%). The expenditure components which showed the largest increase for Australia were Purchase of vehicles (up 8.7%) and Clothing and footwear (up 7.9%).

HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE(a), Trend,

Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no 5206.0)

Consumption

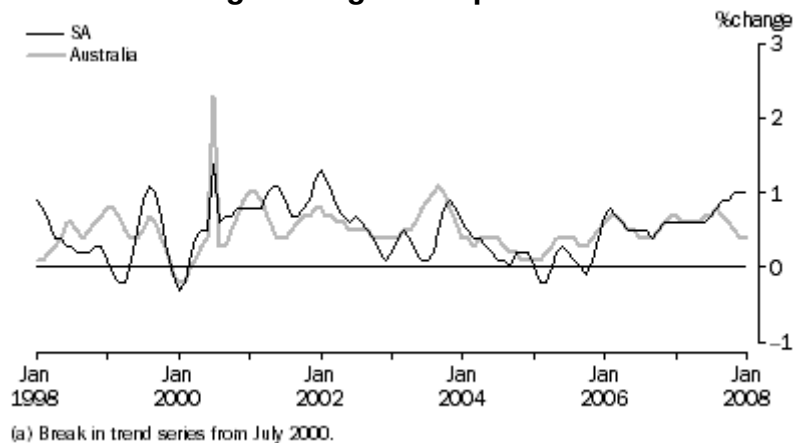


CONSUMPTION

RETAIL TURNOVER

The January 2008 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,411.1m, while the estimate for Australia was \$20,183.2m. From December 2008 the increase in turnover across all retail industries for South Australia was 1.0% and a 0.4% nationally.

RETAIL TURNOVER(a), Current prices, Trend, Percentage change from previous month

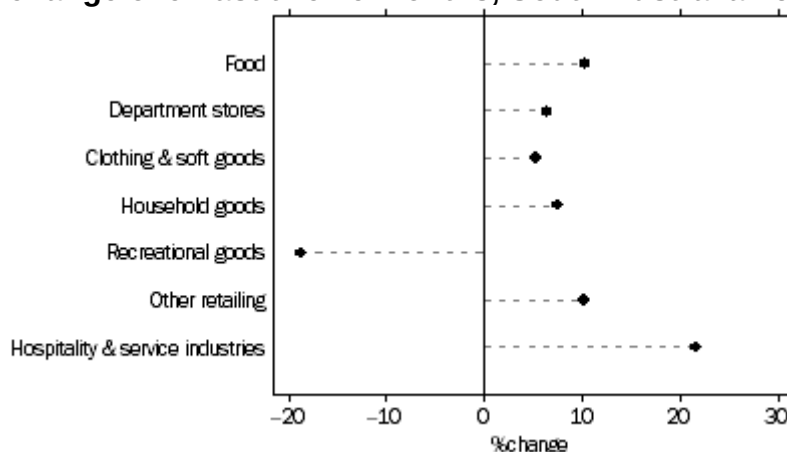


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

Comparing January 2008 with January 2007, retail turnover (trend) increased by 9.7% for South Australia and 7.4% for Australia.

Over the same period, the two South Australian industry groups with the largest percentage increases in retail turnover (trend) were Hospitality and service industries, rising by 21.7% (to \$226.4m), and Food, rising by 10.3% (to \$596.3m). The South Australian industry group which reported the largest decrease in retail turnover (trend) was Recreational goods retailing, which decreased by 18.7% to \$43.8m.

RETAIL TURNOVER BY INDUSTRY GROUP, Current prices, Trend, Percentage change over last twelve months, South Australia - January 2008

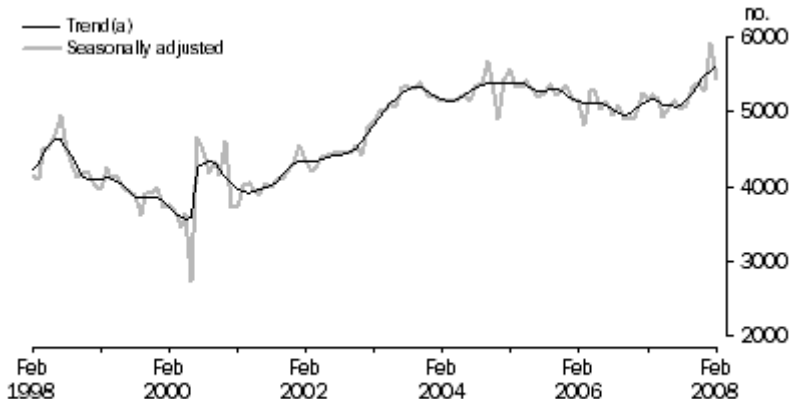


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

In February 2008, 3,442 new passenger vehicles and 5,633 new vehicles in total (in trend terms) were sold in South Australia. Corresponding sales for Australia were 53,746 and 91,300.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, South Australia



(a) Break in trend series between June 2000 & July 2000 with introduction of the New Tax System

Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0.)

Investment



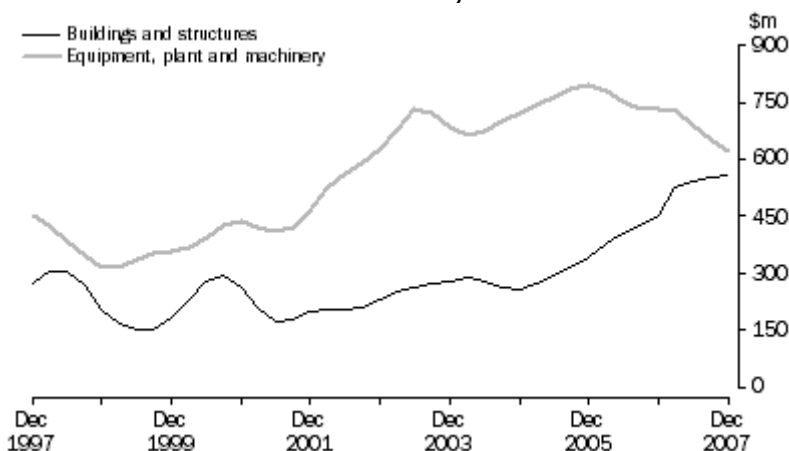
INVESTMENT

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Between the September 2007 and the December 2007 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure decreased by 2.5% to \$1,178m. Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery decreased by \$35m (or 5.3%) to \$620m, while expenditure on Buildings and structures increased by \$5m (or 0.9%) to \$558m. For the same period, private new capital expenditure for Australia increased by 0.3% to \$20,453m. Expenditure on Buildings and structures decreased 1.2%, while Equipment, plant and machinery expenditure increased 1.3% over this period.

Comparing the December 2007 quarter with the December 2006 quarter, South Australia's total private new capital expenditure decreased by 0.5%. Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 15.3% while expenditure on Buildings and structures increased by 23.7% over this period.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Trend, Chain volume measures, South Australia



Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (cat. no. 5625.0)

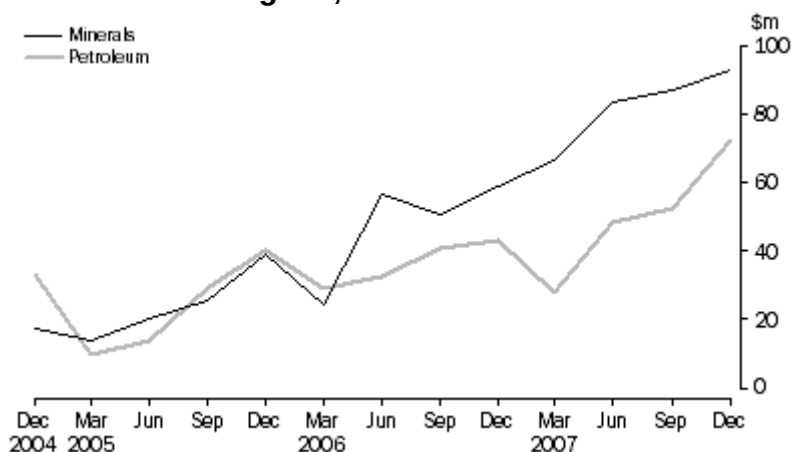
MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

The value in original terms of mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia in the December 2007 quarter was \$93.5m, up 7.2% from the September 2007 quarter. From December 2006 to December 2007, the value of mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia increased 58.2% from \$59.1m to \$93.5m. Over the same period, Australian expenditure on mineral exploration increased 39.6% from \$448.2m in December 2006 to \$625.9m in December 2007.

Of the \$93.5m mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia in the December 2007 quarter, \$37.3m was for uranium exploration, \$25.5m for copper and \$16.4m was for gold.

The December 2007 quarter expenditure on petroleum exploration in South Australia (\$72.5m) was 67.1% higher than in December 2006 quarter (\$43.4m). Nationally, expenditure on petroleum exploration increased from \$544.5m in the December 2006 quarter to \$770.0m in the December 2007 quarter (an increase of 41.4%). In the December 2007 quarter, 66.6% of all petroleum exploration expenditure in Australia was in Western Australia.

MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Original, South Australia



Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia (cat. no. 8412.0)

Construction



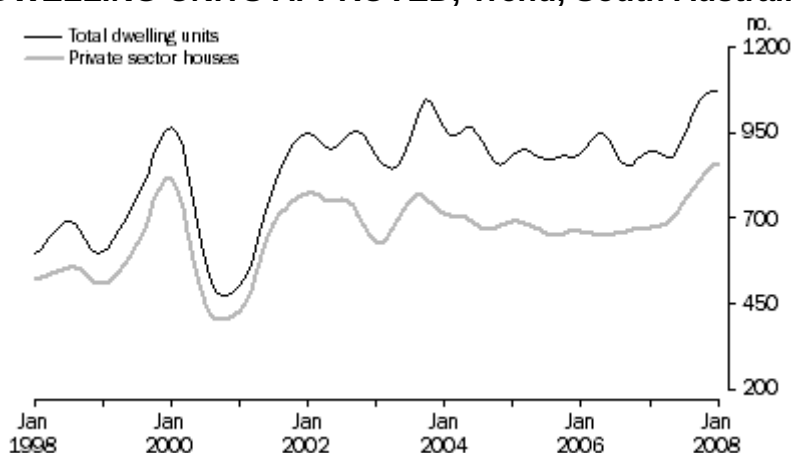
CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING APPROVALS

In January 2008, the total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia (in trend terms) was 1,073. This was the first month where the number of dwelling units approved decreased since May 2007. Nationally, the total number of dwelling units approved (in trend terms) was 13,463.

The trend estimate for the number of private sector houses approved in South Australia in January 2008 was 864. This was the twentieth consecutive month where the number of private sector houses approved increased.

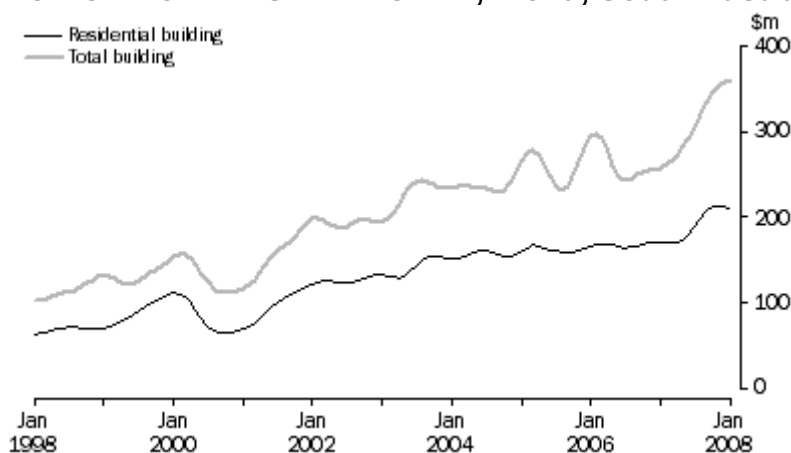
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: [Building Approvals, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8731.0)

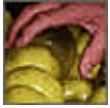
In January 2008, the total value of building work approved (in trend terms) in South Australia was \$361.2m. The value of residential building work approved was \$208.5m.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: [Building Approvals, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8731.0)

Prices

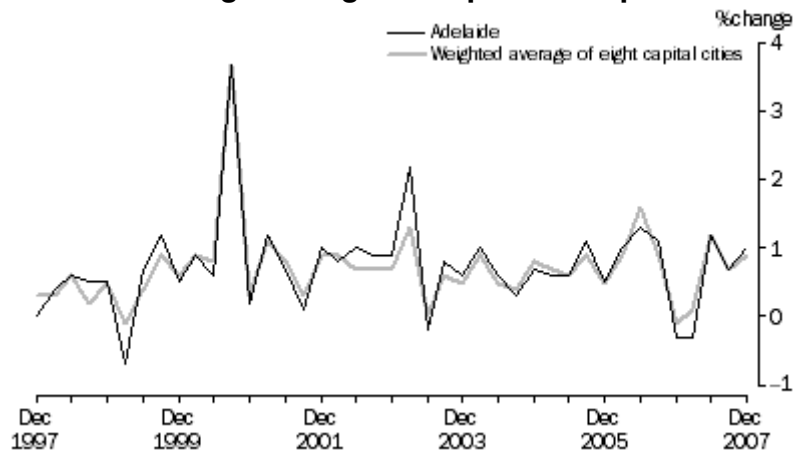


PRICES

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 2.7% in the 12 months to December 2007, compared with a 3.0% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities. Adelaide's CPI rose 1.0% in December 2007 while the weighted average of eight capital cities rose by 0.9% in this month.

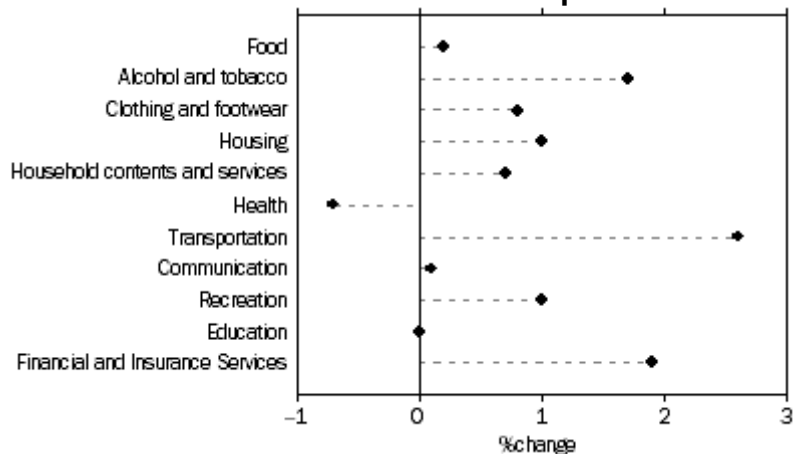
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS, Original, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Consumer Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6401.0)

Adelaide's largest percentage increases in prices from the previous quarter were Transportation (2.6%) and Financial and other services (1.9%). The only percentage decrease in prices from the previous quarter was Health (-0.7%).

CPI MOVEMENT, Original, Percentage change from previous quarter, Adelaide - December 2007 quarter



Source: [Consumer Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6401.0)

Labour force

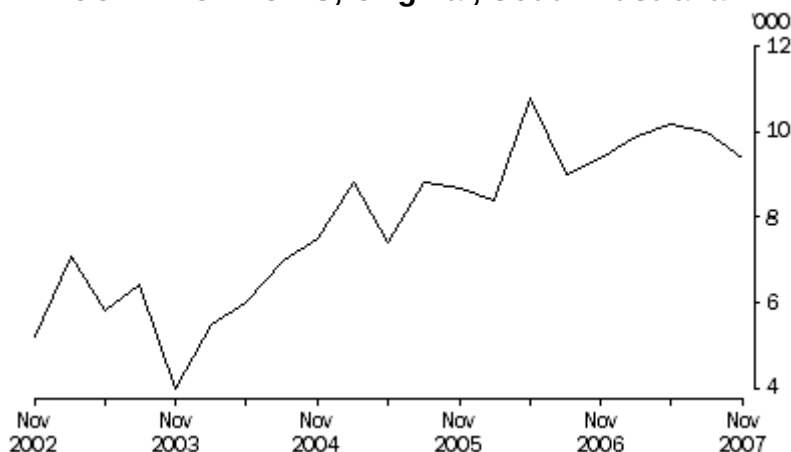


LABOUR FORCE

JOB VACANCIES

In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies decreased to about 9,400 in November 2007 from 10,000 in August 2007. The November 2007 vacancies were the same as in November 2006. Australia-wide, job vacancies increased from 173,100 in August 2007 to 182,800 in November 2007. Australian job vacancies in November 2007 were 13% higher than in November 2006.

JOB VACANCIES, Original, South Australia



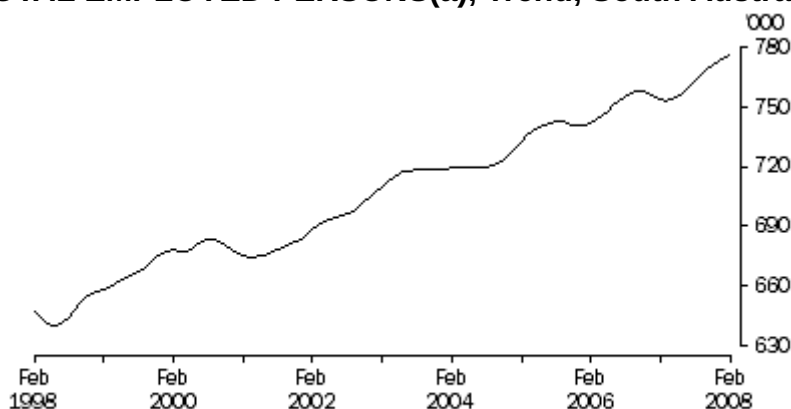
Source: [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6354.0)

EMPLOYED PERSONS

In trend terms, the total number of persons employed in South Australia in February 2008 was 775,800. This was a 2.9% increase on the number of persons employed in February 2007 (754,200). The total number of persons employed in Australia in February 2008 was 10,649,700, a 2.7% increase on the number employed in February 2007 (10,371,300).

The number of males employed full-time in South Australia in February 2008 was 351,000 (in trend terms), up 2.6% from February 2007. The number of females employed full-time in South Australia in February 2008 was 185,400 (in trend terms), up 6.5% from February 2007.

TOTAL EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), Trend, South Australia



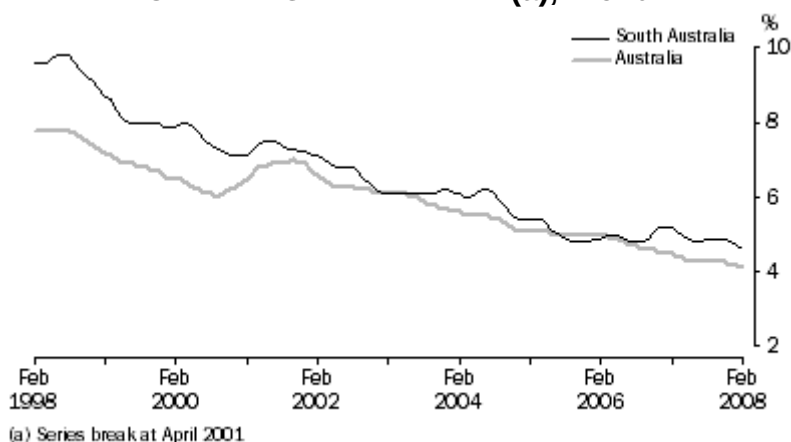
(a) Series break at April 2001.

Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend estimate unemployment rate for South Australia decreased to 4.6% in February 2008, from 4.7% in January 2008. This was the third consecutive month where the unemployment rate for South Australia had decreased. Australia's unemployment rate decreased to 4.1% in February 2008, from 4.2% in January 2008.

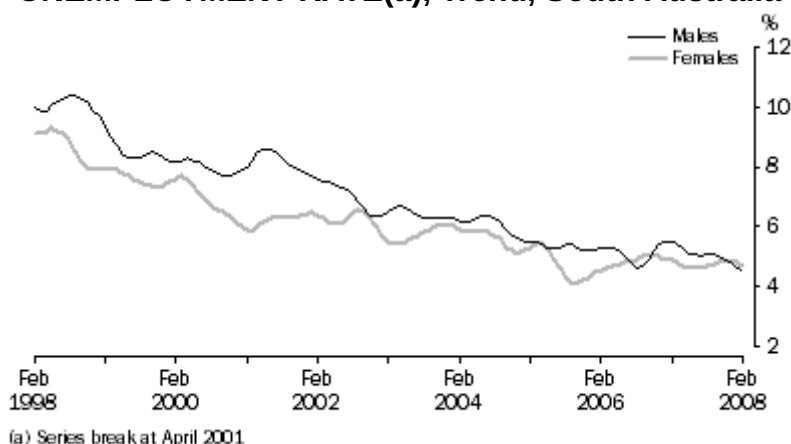
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend unemployment rate for males decreased to 4.5% in February 2008, down from 4.6% in January 2008. The trend unemployment rate for females similarly decreased over this period, from 4.8% in January 2008 to 4.7% in February 2008.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia

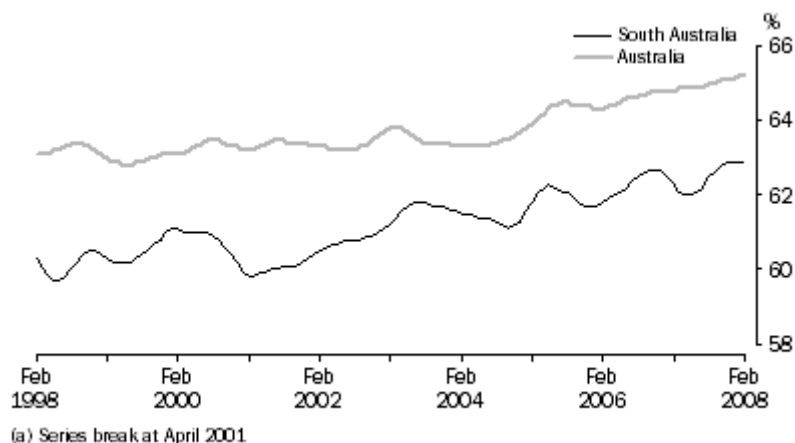


Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

PARTICIPATION RATE

The trend estimate of the participation rate for South Australia in February 2008 was 62.9%, the same as in January 2008. In the ten year period from February 1998, the lowest participation rate estimate was 59.7% in May and June of 1998. Australia's trend participation rate also remained steady from January 2008 to February 2008 at 65.2%. The lowest participation rate reported for Australia for the ten year period from February 1998 was 62.8% in April and May of 1999.

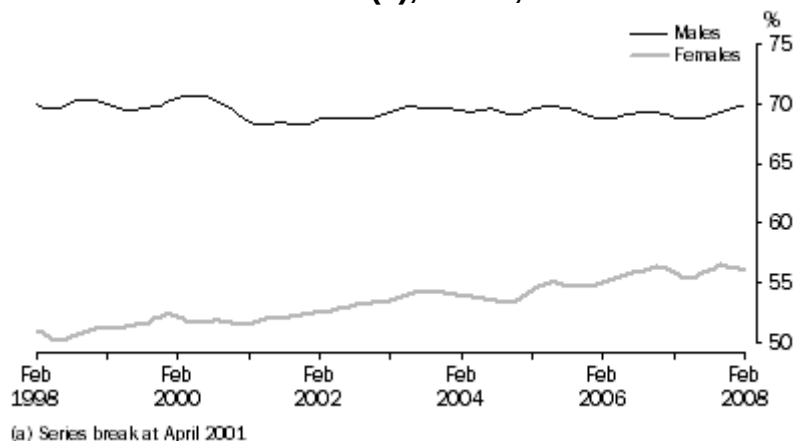
PARTICIPATION RATE(a), Trend



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend participation rate for females was 56.1% in February 2008, down from 56.2% in January 2008. Nationally, the female participation rate was steady at 58.1% in February 2008. The participation rate for South Australian males increased to 69.9% in February 2008, up from 69.8% in January 2008. The Australian participation rate for males has been consistently higher than that for South Australia, and was steady at 72.5% in February 2008.

PARTICIPATION RATE(a), Trend, South Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

Incomes



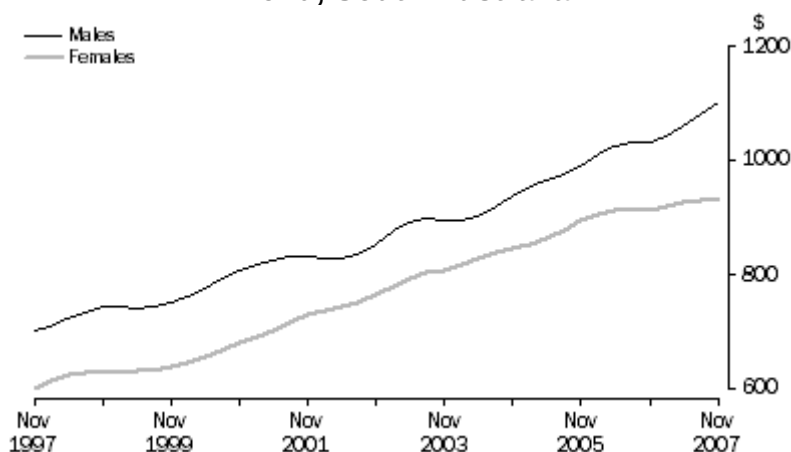
INCOMES

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 5.2% to \$1,046.10 in the 12 months to November 2007. Nationally, the corresponding increase was less at 4.9% (up to \$1,112.70).

For South Australia, the trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time, full-time adult) earnings rose by 6.6% for males and 2.1% for females over the 12 months to November 2007.

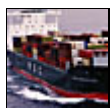
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FULL-TIME ADULT ORDINARY, Trend, South Australia



Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)

At November 2007, male average weekly earnings (\$1,101.80) in South Australia were 18.0% higher than the corresponding female earnings (\$933.50). Nationally, in November 2007 male average weekly earnings (\$1,180.00) were 19.0% higher than the female earnings (\$991.60).

International merchandise trade



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

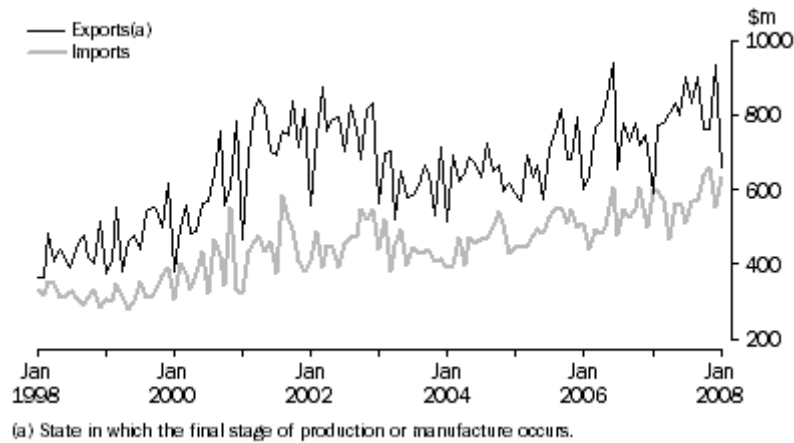
South Australia's value of exports (in original terms) in January 2008 was \$657m, an increase of 10.8% from the value of exports in January 2007 (\$593m). The largest reported increases in value of exports over this period were for Road vehicles, parts and accessories (up \$58.6m, or 502.4%) and Petroleum and petroleum products (up \$5.9m, or 25.9%). The largest declines in value were reported for the exports of Metals and metal manufactures (down \$66.0m, or 37.5%) and Wine (down \$6.6m, or 6.1%).

The value of Australian merchandise exports for January 2008 was \$13,185m, which was 4.4% greater than that for January 2007.

The value of South Australian merchandise imports increased to \$634m in January 2008 from \$554m in December 2007. In January 2007 the state's merchandise imports amounted to \$600m.

The value of Australian merchandise imports for January 2008 was \$16,937m, a 16.5% increase from January 2007.

VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, Original, South Australia



Source: [International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5368.0)

Housing finance

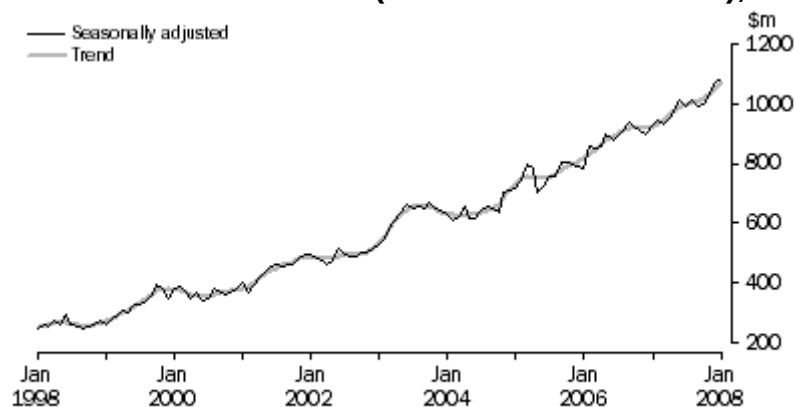


HOUSING FINANCE

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia in January 2008 was \$1,072m, an increase of 15.9% from January 2007. Nationally, for the same period, the increase was lower at 10.1% (to a total of \$15,775m).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), South Australia

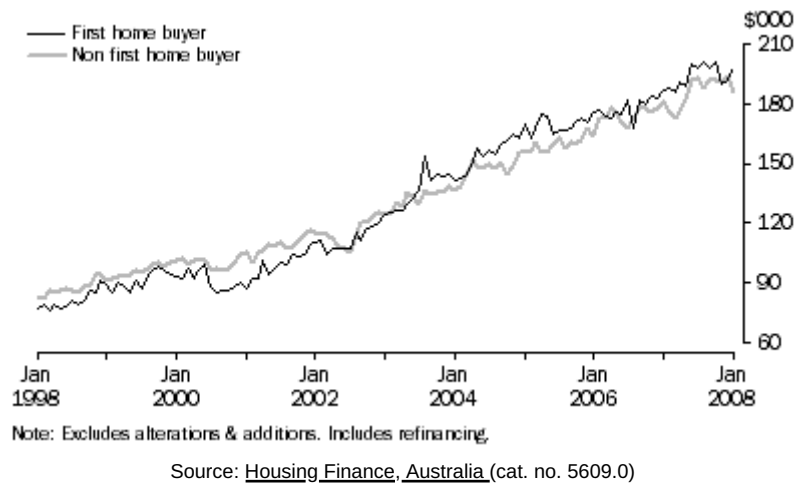


Note: Excludes alterations & additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: [Housing Finance, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5609.0)

Since January 1998, the average home loan commitment for owner occupied dwellings in South Australia has more than doubled from \$82,500 to \$188,100 in January 2008. In January 2008 the average loan size for first home buyers was \$198,400, which was 6.4% greater than the average loan size of \$186,500 for non-first home buyers. The average home loan commitment for owner occupied dwellings in Australia in January 2008 was \$233,900.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), Original, Average Loan Size by Type of Buyer, South Australia



Water

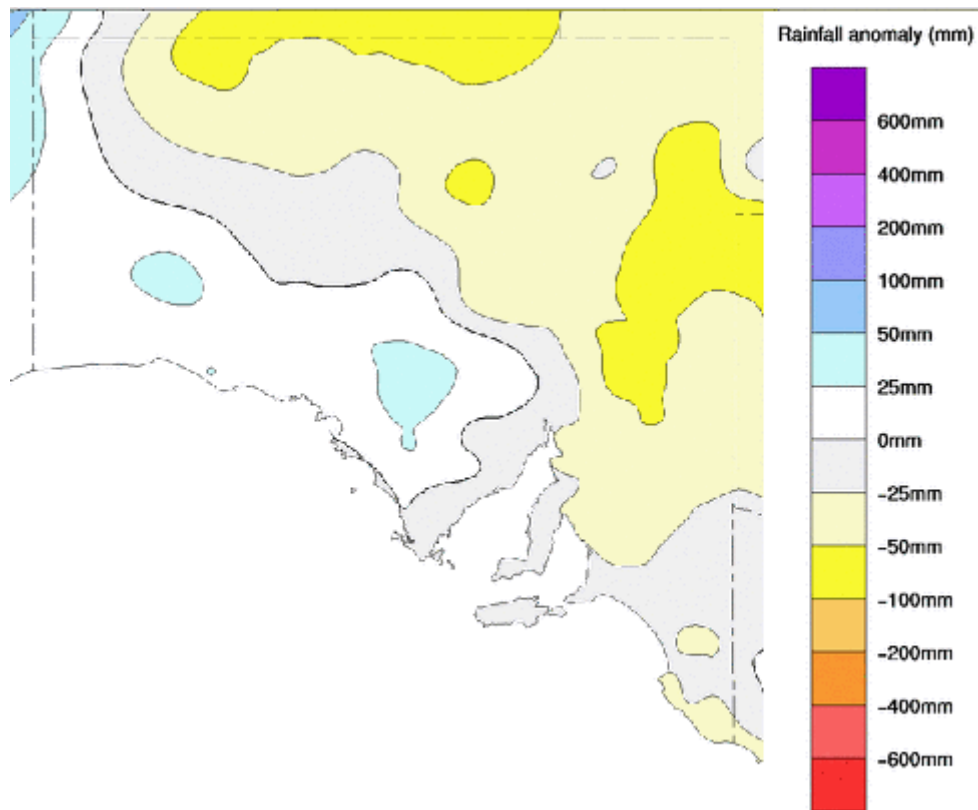


WATER

SUMMER RAINFALL

The [Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Climate Summary for South Australia](#) for summer 2008 reported that the season's rainfall was generally below average apart from the west of the state where it was slightly above average. The Pastoral Districts reported totals that were generally above average in Northwest pastoral district but generally below average elsewhere. In the Agricultural areas rainfall was above average in the Western Agricultural districts but below average elsewhere.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAINFALL ANOMALIES 1 December to 29 February 2008, South Australia, Product of the National Climate Centre

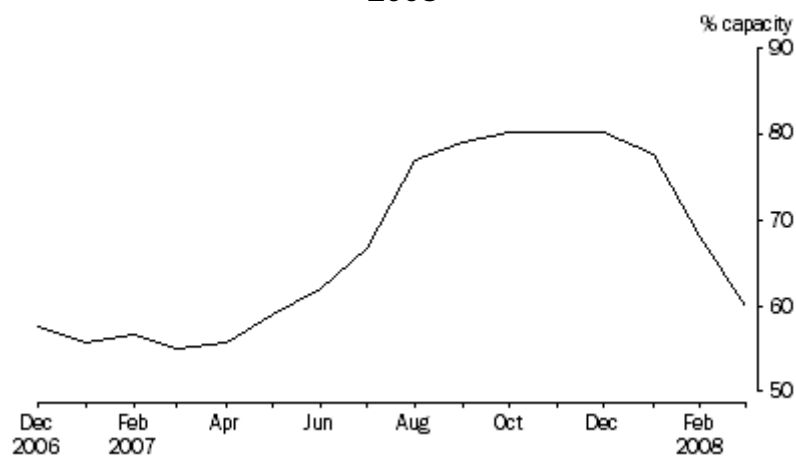


Source: 3-monthly rainfall anomalies for South Australia, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, issued 01/03/08
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RESERVOIR LEVELS

The total water storage in Adelaide's reservoirs at the end of February 2008 (the end of summer and beginning of Autumn) was 60% of capacity, compared with 55% at the same time in 2006.

TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE, as a percentage of capacity, Adelaide - 29 February 2008



Source: SA Water, daily reservoir levels

Tourist Accommodation



TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

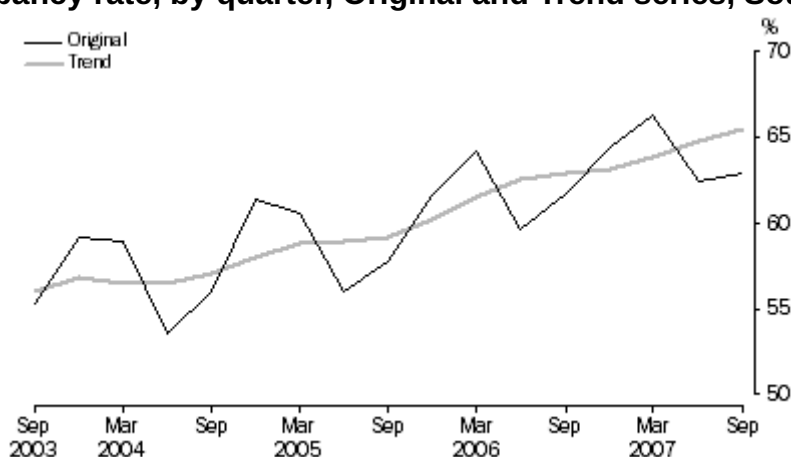
The total takings from all forms of tourist accommodation in South Australia in the September 2007 quarter were \$102.9 million, which was 4.2% of the Australian total of \$2,457.3 million. For the year ended September 2007, total tourist accommodation takings in South Australia were \$428.3 million, or 4.6% of the Australian total. The South Australian takings had increased by 7.4% over those for the year ended September 2006.

For the year ending September 2007, tourist guest arrivals at South Australian hotels, motels and serviced apartments with five or more rooms and visitor hostels amounted to 2,522,318 persons, or 5.4% of the Australian total, and 4.2% more than for the year ended September 2006.

For the year ended September 2007, takings from hotels, motels and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms in South Australia were \$324.9 million, or 75.9% of the total tourist accommodation takings. Similarly, this type of accommodation caters for over three-quarters of the guest arrivals, with 2,184,800 (or 86.6% of all guests) being received in South Australia in the year ended September 2007.

Room occupancy rates for hotels, motels and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms for the September 2007 quarter were 65.5% for South Australia in trend terms.

HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 15 OR MORE ROOMS, Room occupancy rate, by quarter, Original and Trend series, South Australia



Source: Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, South Australia - Electronic Delivery, Sep 2007 (cat. no. 8635.4.55.001)

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About this Release

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian economy. The overview will be updated on a quarterly basis (in March, June, September and December) and in the intervening months the publication will include feature articles that provide a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications (links to source documents are provided in the summary table).

Replaces: South Australian Economic Indicators (cat. no. 1307.4)

Literacy of South Australians (Feature Article)

LITERACY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

INTRODUCTION

In today's ever changing society, literacy extends far beyond being able to read and write. It involves understanding and being able to use information to function effectively in society, using skills such as decision making, critical thinking and reasoning. Having adequate literacy skills allows individuals to deal with a range of situations they may be faced with in everyday life. Literacy skills are also essential to be able to adapt to change, whether it be in the workplace, at home, or in society.

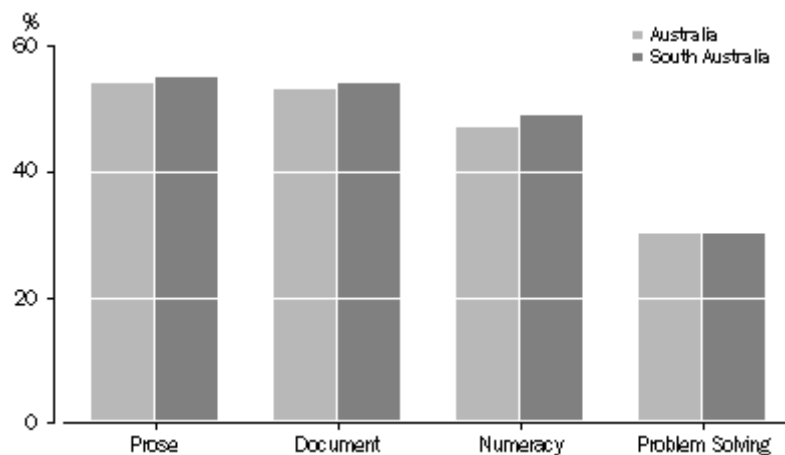
The 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS) (cat. no. 4228.0) collected data on the knowledge and skills of Australians aged 15 to 74 across four literacy domains: prose literacy; document literacy; numeracy; and problem solving. Literacy was measured on a scale of 1 to 5, with level 1 being the lowest measured level of literacy and level 3 being regarded as the 'minimum required for individuals to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work in the emerging knowledge-based economy' (Statistics Canada and OECD, 2005). Those who are assessed with literacy skills of level 3 or above are considered to have adequate literacy skills while those with literacy skills at level 1 or 2 are considered to have inadequate literacy skills.

LITERACY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

Of the four literacy domains, South Australians fared poorest on problem solving skills. Only 30% of South Australians were assessed as having adequate problem solving skills. Approximately 55% were assessed as having adequate prose literacy, where participants were tested on their ability to understand and use information contained in various types of written material such as newspapers and brochures. Similar results were seen for document literacy (54%), where participants were required to use transportation timetables and maps, and numeracy (49%). No significant differences were identified between males and females across each of the literacy domains.

As shown in the graph below, the proportion of South Australians assessed as having adequate literacy skills in each of the domains was very similar to the proportions for Australia.

PROPORTION OF PEOPLE AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE

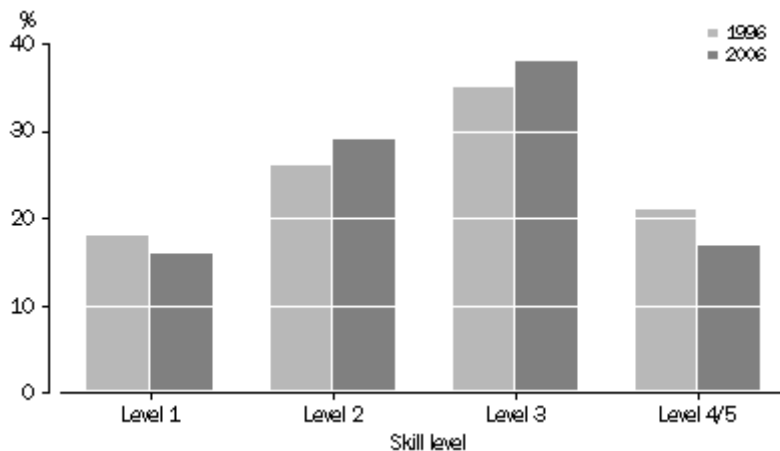


Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0)

COMPARISONS BETWEEN PROSE LITERACY AND DOCUMENT LITERACY IN 1996 AND 2006

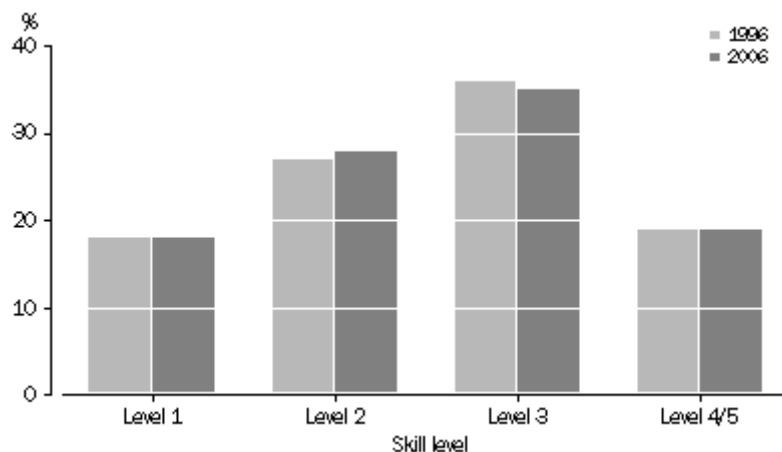
Comparing results from the 1996 Aspects of Literacy Survey (cat. no. 4226.0), where only prose literacy and document literacy are comparable with ALLS data, there appears to be little change in the literacy levels of South Australians. In 1996, 56% of South Australians had adequate prose literacy skills and ten years later 55% had adequate skills in this domain. The proportion of South Australians with adequate document literacy skills also remained steady over the 10 year period (55% in 1996 and 54% in 2006).

PROPORTION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS BY LITERACY SKILL LEVEL, Prose literacy



Sources: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0), Aspects of Literacy: Profiles and Perceptions, 1996 (cat. no. 4226.0)

PROPORTION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS BY LITERACY SKILL LEVEL, Document literacy



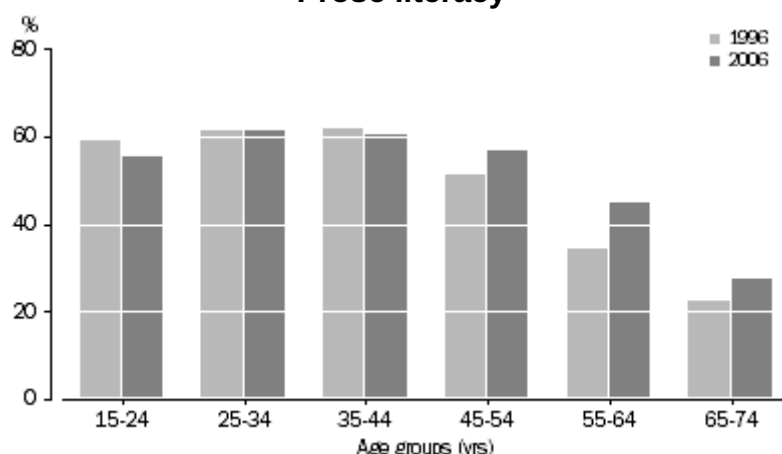
Sources: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0), Aspects of Literacy: Profiles and Perceptions, 1996 (cat. no. 4226.0)

Age group comparisons

The 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey was designed to provide reliable estimates at the national level and for each state and territory. Unfortunately, when comparing data between 1996 and 2006 for specific age groups in South Australia, the sample sizes are not large enough to result in observed changes in the estimate being statistically significant. Therefore at this level, it cannot be determined whether there are any real differences between age groups. As a result, data has been reported here at the Australia level.

There were statistically significant changes in the prose literacy skills of older Australians between 1996 and 2006. The proportion of Australians aged 55 to 64 who had adequate prose literacy increased from 35% in 1996 to 45% in 2006. Similarly, the proportion of Australians aged 45 to 54 years who had adequate prose literacy increased from 51% to 57% during this same period.

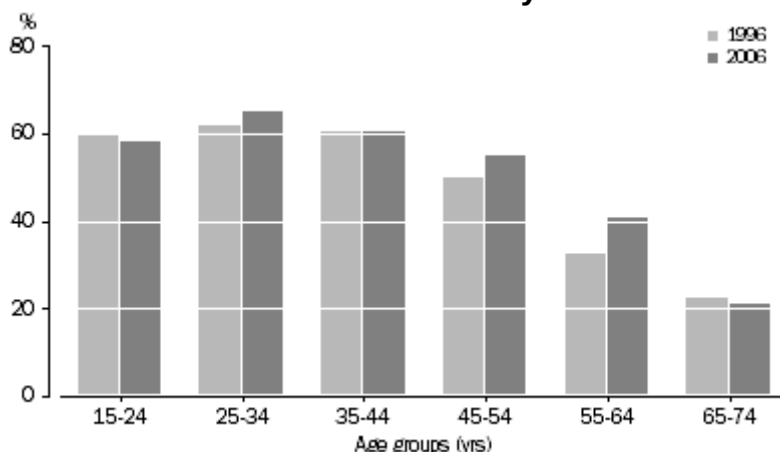
PROPORTION OF AUSTRALIANS AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE BY AGE GROUPS, Prose literacy



Sources: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0), Aspects of Literacy: Profiles and Perceptions, 1996 (cat. no. 4226.0)

With document literacy, there were statistically significant changes in some of the older age groups. The proportion of Australians aged 55 to 64 who had adequate document literacy increased from 33% in 1996 to 41% in 2006. Similarly, the proportion of Australians aged 45 to 54 years who had adequate document literacy increased from 50% to 55% during this same period.

PROPORTION OF AUSTRALIANS AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE BY AGE GROUPS, Document literacy



Sources: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0), Aspects of Literacy: Profiles and Perceptions, 1996 (cat. no. 4226.0)

Age cohort changes

When comparing age cohorts over the 10 year interval between 1996 and 2006 in Australia (for example those aged 15 to 24 years in 1996 with those aged 25 to 34 years in 2006) it is evident that literacy levels decreased with age. The exception to this was the 25 to 34 year age group, which had higher levels of literacy than the 15 to 24 year age group.

There were notable declines in the proportion of Australians with adequate prose and document literacy skills when comparing those aged 55 to 64 years in 1996 to those aged 65 to 74 years in 2006. For example, the proportion of Australians aged 55 to 64 years in 1996 with adequate document literacy skills was 33%. In 2006, only 21% of those aged 65 to 74 years had adequate document literacy. A similar trend was also observed for prose literacy.

PROPORTION OF AUSTRALIANS AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE BY AGE GROUPS, Cohort changes

Age groups	Prose literacy	Document literacy
15-24 in 1996	59	60
25-34 in 2006	62	65
25-34 in 1996	61	62
35-44 in 2006	61	60
35-44 in 1996	62	61
45-54 in 2006	57	55
45-54 in 1996	51	50
55-64 in 2006	45	41
55-64 in 1996	35	33
65-74 in 2006	27	21

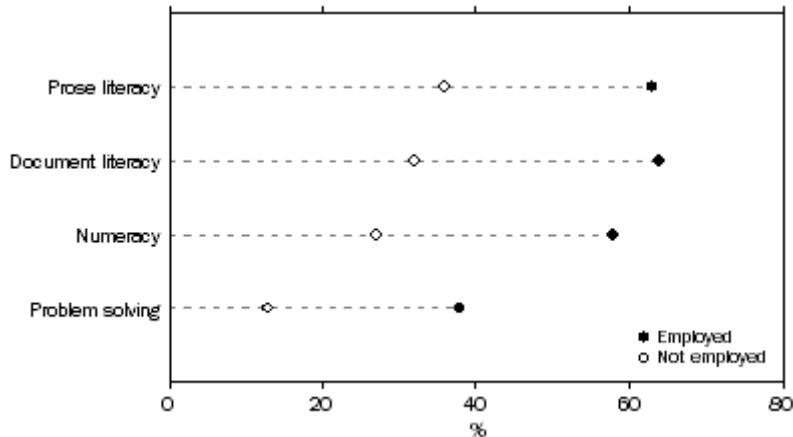
Sources: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0), Aspects of Literacy: Profiles and Perceptions, 1996 (cat. no. 4226.0)

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH LITERACY LEVELS

Labour force status

In 2006, a greater proportion of employed people had adequate document literacy skills (64%) than those who were not employed (32%) (comprises those who were unemployed and those not in the labour force). A similar pattern was also seen when looking at prose literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

PROPORTION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE, Labour force status



Note: 'Not employed' includes 'Unemployed' and 'Not in the labour force'

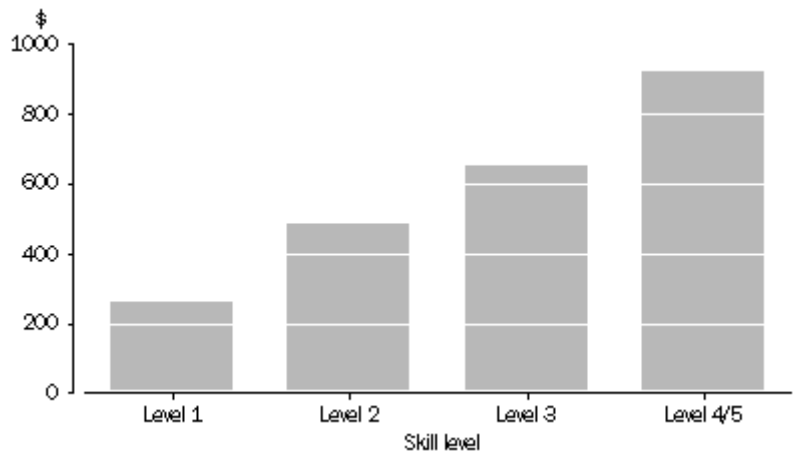
Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

In general, a slightly higher proportion of people who worked full-time had adequate literacy skills than those working part-time. This was observed across all four literacy domains, with the difference varying between 3 and 11 percentage points.

Income

Personal median gross weekly income increased with each level of literacy attainment. For example, in the prose literacy domain, the median income for those attaining scores at level 1 was \$260 per week in 2006 whereas those with scores at level 4/5 have a median income of \$922 per week.

MEDIAN PERSONAL GROSS WEEKLY INCOME FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIANS, By prose skill level



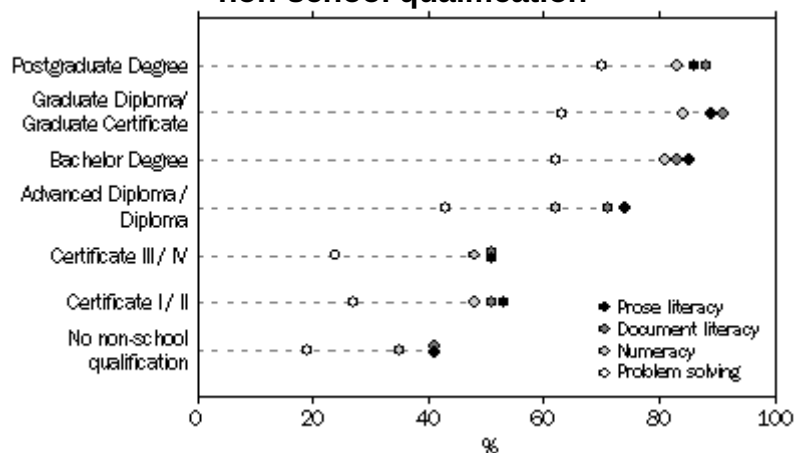
Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

Educational attainment qualifications

Literacy levels increase as the level of educational attainment increases. People who have attained a qualification are more likely to have adequate literacy than people who do not have a qualification. More than two thirds (67%) of those who had completed a qualification were assessed as having adequate prose literacy skills, compared to 41% of those who had not completed a qualification. This pattern was also observed for document literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

Further to this, the proportion of those with adequate literacy skills increased with the level of highest educational attainment. A higher proportion of people who had completed a non-school qualification at the 'Bachelor Degree' or above had adequate skills compared to those who had completed a qualification at the 'Certificate III/IV' or below.

PROPORTION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AT SKILL LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE, Level of non-school qualification



Source: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

CONCLUSION

Only 30% of South Australians aged 15 to 74 were assessed to have adequate problem solving skills in the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey. Further to this, 45% of South Australians were assessed to not have the prose literacy skills required to cope with situations they may be faced with in everyday life. There appears to be little change in the prose literacy and document literacy skills of South Australians in the last 10 years. Those with adequate literacy skills are more likely to be employed, have higher income and higher educational attainment than those with inadequate literacy skills.

REFERENCES:

ABS, Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0)

ABS Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004)

ABS, Aspects of Literacy: Profiles and Perceptions, 1996 (cat. no. 4226.0)

Statistics Canada and OECD 2005, 'Learning a Living: First results from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey', Ottawa and Paris

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